

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/064,265

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed May 29, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Cheukfan Lee

Art Unit: 2625

1. Claims 1-31 are allowed. Claims 1, 11, 17, 21, 26, and 30 are independent.

2. Claim 17 has been amended to set a basis "an optical sensor" on line 3.

In the previous Office action mailed April 9, 2007, Examiner was not completely correct in objecting to "an optical sensor" of the last line of the claim. That is because "an optical sensor" of line 3 of the claim belongs to the noun phrase "an optical sensor circuit module" and is not a basis for the term "the optical sensor". Applicant's effort to amend the claim to clearly set a basis "an optical sensor" on one 3 of the claim is appreciated.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 11, 17, 21, 26, and 30 each require that the optical sensor circuit module receives and converts scan control signals to timing control signals to control document scanning. This feature in combination with other limitations of any of the independent claims is not taught by the prior art of record. Further with regard to method claim 11, although the claim does not claim other circuit(s) or elements as the rest of the independent claims, the "optical sensor circuit module" as interpreted in light of the specification is different from and does not include a main circuit module, and thus, the limitations "receiving scan control signals at an optical sensor circuit module via a connection cable" and "converting the scan control signals to timing control signals to control document scanning" are not taught by the prior art of record.

Claims 2-10 depend on claim 1. Claims 12-16 depend on claim 11. Claims 18-20 depend on claim 17. Claims 22-25 depend on claim 21. Claims 27-29 depend on claim 26. Claim 31 depends on claim 30.

As discussed in a previous Office action mailed Jan. 23, 2006, Japanese Publication No. 2003-110798 A, cited in that Office action, discloses the similar subject matter as claimed. Note the CCD substrate (1) having timing generating circuit (14), A/D converter (12) and CCD sensor (11), and the control substrate (2) that is connected to the CCD substrate (1) through a communication cable. Means that generates a clock signal of a timing generation circuit is provided on the CCD substrate (1). However, this Japanese publication is not prior art to the present application because of its late publication date April 11, 2003, later than the effective filing date (U.S.) June 27, 2002 of the present application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

Art Unit: 2625

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cheukfan Lee
August 1, 2007